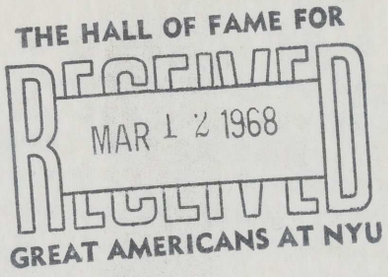
From RALPH HAYES
230 PARK AVENUE, ROOM 646
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

To Dr. Rockman

Clara Barton

February 24, 1968



Nom form 3/3/69

Mrs. August Belmont
1115 - 5th Avenue
New York, New York 10028

Dear Eleanor:

Your recent note reaches me a bit belatedly because of a trip to the Ozarks in the interests of Lucy Wortham James whose character you esteem somewhat more highly than you rate my endeavors in her behalf! That could well be true.

You ask about Clara Barton. She was not among those elected to the Hall of Fame. Her candidacy has been offered in each of the last six elections which occur at five year intervals. Since considerable publicity is given to the detailed results of these elections it is, I think, not improper to say that her best showings were in 1940 (12 votes) and in 1955 (13 votes). In each of the other four pollings she received less than 10 votes. In 1965 the ~~most~~ fewest votes that elected the four successful candidates was a total of 74 (for Orville Wright).

What may be less than helpful to Miss Barton's candidacy is perhaps the controversy that characterized her later years in connection with the work of the Red Cross which she directed for twenty-two years from 1882. The authoritative and usually objective "Dictionary of American Biography" states:

> "The (Red Cross) founder's refusal to delegate responsibility, however, and her proneness to arbitrary action resulted in a loss of public confidence. In 1900 the society was reincorporated with a new charter, but continuing dissensions over the founder's policies ended in 1904 with an investigation by a special committee. No report was ever presented by the committee but Clara Barton resigned in June 1904, and the society was completely reorganized."